

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A server reservation method whereby a user terminal apparatus makes a reservation for the use of a processing server that performs predetermined processing to a reservation control apparatus that controls the reservation state of said processing server via a network in order for said user terminal apparatus to use the functions of said processing server by accessing said processing server via the network, said server reservation method comprising:

~~a reservation requesting step of~~ sending reservation request information including a desired service time to use said processing server from said user terminal apparatus to said reservation control apparatus via the network;

~~a permission notifying step of~~ transmitting, when the reservation for the use of said processing server during said desired service time included in said reservation request information is accepted, ~~the~~ a permission notification information to notify that the reservation is accepted, to said user terminal apparatus via the network;

~~a reconfirming step of~~ transmitting reconfirmation information for said accepted reservation, from said user terminal apparatus to said reservation control apparatus via the network; and

~~a reservation confirming step of~~ confirming said reservation when said reservation control apparatus receives said reconfirmation information sent from said user terminal apparatus, by a predetermined time before said desired service time, and of canceling said reservation when said reservation control apparatus does not receive said reconfirmation information by a predetermined time before said desired service time; and

storing communication/connection information used for said user terminal apparatus to connect and communicate with said processing server sent from said reservation control

apparatus when said reservation is confirmed, in a predetermined storage area of said user terminal apparatus.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The server reservation method according to Claim 1, further comprising

~~a billing step of performing billing processing related to said reservation when the reservation is confirmed in said reservation~~ confirming step confirmation.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The server reservation method according to Claim 1, wherein

said predetermined processing executed by said processing server is processing of distributing content data by streaming to the ~~requesting client~~ user terminal apparatus via the network.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The server reservation method according to Claim 1, wherein

said permission ~~notifying step~~ notification does not permit said reservation when the total time of reservations by the user of said user terminal apparatus during a predetermined period exceeds a preset time.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A reservation control apparatus for controlling reservations for the use of a processing server that carries out predetermined processing in order for a user terminal apparatus to use the functions of said processing server by accessing said processing server via a network, said reservation control apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving reservation request information including a desired service time to use said processing server supplied from said user terminal apparatus via the network;

permission notifying means for sending, when the reservation for the use of said processing server during said desired service time included in said reservation request information is accepted, permission notification information to notify that the reservation is accepted, to said user terminal apparatus via the network;

reconfirmation information receiving means for receiving the reconfirmation information for said accepted reservation sent from said user terminal apparatus via the network; and

reservation confirming means for confirming said reservation when said reconfirmation information is received by a predetermined time before said desired service time, and for canceling said reservation when said reconfirmation information is not received by a predetermined time before said desired service time; and

storing means for storing communication/connection information used for said user terminal apparatus to connect and communicate with said processing server sent from said reservation control apparatus when said reservation is confirmed.

Claim 6 (Original): The reservation control apparatus according to Claim 5, further comprising

billing means for carrying out billing processing related to said reservation when the reservation is confirmed by said reservation confirming means.

Claim 7 (Original): The reservation control apparatus according to Claim 5, further comprising

reservation permission judging means for judging whether the total reservation time by the user of said user terminal apparatus during a preset period exceeds the preset time and for rejecting said reservation when the total reservation time by the user of said user terminal apparatus during a preset period exceeds the preset time.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium storing a computer program instructions that cause a reservation control apparatus to implement a method of controlling to be executed by a reservation control apparatus that controls reservations for the use of a processing server that carries out predetermined processing in order for a user terminal apparatus to use the functions of said processing server by accessing said processing server via a network, said program method comprising:

~~reception processing of receiving reservation request information including a desired service time to use said processing server supplied from said user terminal apparatus via the network;~~

~~permission notification processing of sending, when the reservation for the use of said processing server during said desired service time included in said reservation request information is accepted, permission notification information to notify that the reservation is accepted, to said user terminal apparatus via the network;~~

~~reconfirmation information reception processing of receiving the reconfirmation information for said accepted reservation sent from said user terminal apparatus via the network; and~~

~~reservation confirmation processing of confirming said reservation when said reconfirmation information is received by a predetermined time before said desired service time, and of canceling said reservation when said reconfirmation information is not received by a predetermined time before said desired service time;~~

Application No. 09/938,591

Reply to Office Action of November 17, 2004

storing communication/connection information used for said user terminal apparatus to connect and communicate with said processing server sent from said reservation control apparatus when said reservation is confirmed.